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DAILY STAR



Who's tickled Billie?

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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2005

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BASHER: Rebekah Wade

4.00am Ross's wife
is nicked by cops
for belting HIM



BIFFER: Angela Bostock

9.35am Steve's ex
is nicked by cops
for belting HIM

BULLY BOYS CLOBBERED: EVEN EASTENDERS COULDN'T MAKE IT UP • PAGES 4,5,6 & 7

KNIVES ARE OUT FOR BLAIR

He admits it's got tough

WORRIED Tony Blair yesterday admitted his Premiership is on the slide.

He told his Cabinet members: "Times are tough."

And Ministers reckon the skids are well and truly under the PM after his most disastrous week at No 10.

Mr Blair, 52, is reeling from the departure of his chief ally David Blunkett, 58, and a Commons rebellion for his anti-terror crackdown.

Blunkett was replaced as Work and Pensions Secretary by John Hutton, 50 – another ultra-tough Blairite.

Fears

But at a tense meeting of the Cabinet yesterday, the Prime Minister pleaded with colleagues: "Times are tough but they are tough because the Government is trying to do the right thing."

Supporters of his biggest rival Chancellor Gordon Brown, 54, are convinced Mr Blair will be out of Downing Street by next summer.

Even Home Secretary Charles Clarke, 55, also an ally of the PM, agreed the knives are out for Mr Blair, who has been dubbed a "flame duck".

Mr Clarke said: "If you say 'Are there individuals who have got doubts about particular policy areas?'

"Well yes, and they come together in certain circumstances."

Crucial

"If you say again, 'Are there individuals whose main ambition is to get rid of the Prime Minister?' Yes, but that is not the state of affairs among the party."

Mr Blair now fears his reforms will be torn to shreds by Labour rebels who slashed his Commons majority to just one in a crucial vote on anti-terror laws.

And he is facing a series



Pictures: REUTERS and GETTY IMAGES

PM ALLIES: Clarke, Hutton and Blunkett

by MACER HALL

Political Editor

of clashes that could bring a humiliating defeat and force him out of office.

The battle grounds are:

TERRORISM – New laws allowing suspects to be locked up without charge for 90 days are in tatters after Wednesday's massive Commons rebellion and are likely to be blocked by the Lords.

PUBLIC SERVICES – Labour rebels want plans for more freedom for hospitals and schools ditched.

BENEFITS AND PENSIONS – Plans to slash

sickness benefits and raise the pension age from 65 are expected to face angry opposition.

NUCLEAR MISSILES – The left-wingers are determined to block Mr Blair's desire for new nuclear weapons to replace the ageing Trident deterrent.

Bookmakers William Hill yesterday cut the odds on Mr Blair stepping down before the end of 2006 from 8/1 to 11/4.

IN yesterday's Daily Star phone poll a massive 85% of readers said David Blunkett should not get another pay-off after being ousted from the Cabinet for a second time.

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GRIN 'N BEAR IT:
Blair leaves
No 10 by
the back
entrance
yesterday

Conker the killjoys

■ by MACER HALL

or Guides because they fear they might be sued.

"There is somebody saying that you have to wear goggles to play conkers."

A proposed new law will force courts to consider the general effect of banning activities when considering compensation claims.

Currently, unions have advised teachers to avoid going on school trips.

LOTTO DAILY PLAY
THURSDAY, NOV 3

1 3 4 6 7 18 20

No ticket matched all 7 balls for the £30,000 jackpot

SATURDAY LOTTO
OCTOBER 29

2 5 13 30 39 49 3

BONUS BALL

One ticket matched six balls for the £5.2m jackpot

EXTRA: 2, 19, 29, 32, 40, 46 TBall: 2, 5, 8, 17, 20 (Tb 8)

No Extra winners of £1.9m jackpot. No £250k Tball winners

WEDNESDAY LOTTO

NOVEMBER 2

19 25 32 47 48 49 28

BONUS BALL

There were no winners of the £3.2 million jackpot

Extra: 2, 4, 8, 22, 33, 38 TBall: 2, 3, 4, 5, 24 (Tb 2)

No Extra winners of £2m jackpot. No £250k Tball winners

EURO MILLIONS

FRIDAY,
OCTOBER 28

14, 36, 44, 47, 50

Lucky Star
Numbers 3, 5

No UK winners of the £16.7m jackpot

STAR NEWS

Happy Birthday



Thought for the day...

If Barbie is so popular, why do you have to buy her friends?

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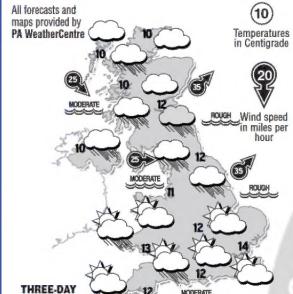
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INFO STATION

TODAY: Southern England, Wales, the Midlands and East Anglia will see sunny spells. North Wales will see patchy rain clearing. Northern England, Northern Ireland and central and southern Scotland will have rain.

OUTLOOK: Tomorrow, eastern parts will start fine and chilly. Rain will spread from the west across all parts, but this will clear by evening. Further rain on Sunday for all parts.



POUND ABROAD

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Greece	0.80 pounds
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Thailand	64.74 baht
Turkey	2.26 new lira
United States	1.69 dollars
	€ 1.40

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Dubai	13c (55p)
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Majorca	22c (72p)
Miami	26c (79p)
Moscow	sun 6c (43p)
N York	cloudy 13c (55p)
Nicaragua	18c (64p)
Paris	18c (64p)
Rhodes	cloudy 14c (57p)
Rome	sunny 20c (68p)
Tenerife	26c (79p)

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DAILY STAR

**The ONLY paper that guarantees
you a Page 3 girl EVERY day**

Malene

HERE'S a real sparkler to light up your day as we gear up for Guy Fawkes Night. Danish dish Malene, 25, lives in London and is off to a big fireworks display tomorrow.

And she's sure to have the punters crying: "Ooh! Aah!"



PAGE 3 BABES TO YOUR MOBILE...

DOWNLOAD a topless picture of Malene direct to your mobile phone by texting **STARBABE** to **88833**. Or call **0909 656 0055**. Turn to Page 33 for full details.

• Downloads cost £1.50 plus your usual network SMS rate. Calls cost £1.50 a minute. Average call length is one minute.



Picture: JEAN SAVAGE

DON'T FLASH FLESH

**It might offend
Jimmy Osmond**

EXCLUSIVE

by PETER DYKE

TELLY'S sizzling I'm A Celeb girls have been ordered to keep their kit on . . . in case they upset Jimmy Osmond.

The 42-year-old member of the famous singing family is a strict follower of the Mormon sect, who frown on anyone who flashes the flesh.

And TV bosses fear he'll throw a tantrum if any of the jungle babes – hotly tipped to include Jenny Frost, 27, and Lisa Faulkner, 32 – peel off in the Aussie heat.

Seventies pin-up Jimmy, who scored a No1 with Long Haired Lover From Liverpool, was brought up a Mormon like the rest of his family.

Followers hate seeing



PRUDE: Mormon Jimmy

women strip in public, which could cause rows on the ITV show. An insider said: "The temperatures can soar, which is why in the past we've seen so many girls go skinny dipping.

"We don't want to cause offence, so we'll have a word with the women about this."

Chief are still finalising the celebs for the new series, which starts on November 20.

Top tips include singer Liz, ex-Holby City babe Lisa, Margaret Thatcher's daughter Carol, 52, wine expert Jilly Goulden, 49, Bargain Hunt's David Dickinson, 64, ex-EastEnders Sid Owen, 33, Blue's Antony Costa, 24, and basketball ace Dennis Rodman, 44.

Bosses have added extra shows this year: Jungle Drums will be screened at teatime on ITV2 throughout the two-week run.

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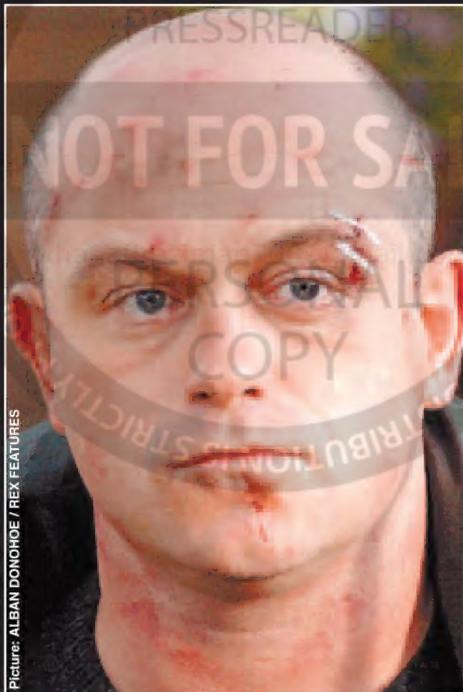


COVER-UP: Actress Lisa



HOT FROST: Singer Jenny

Amazing real life bust-ups that even the



Picture: ALBAN DONOHOE/REX FEATURES

ALL CUT UP: Battered Kemp in one of his TV roles

TOUGH-GUY GRANT GETS FLOORED BY HIS MISSUS

TELLY tough guy Ross Kemp was last night nursing cuts and bruises after being beaten up by his wife, Sun editor Rebekah Wade.

Wade was arrested by police following the 4am bust-up at the home she shares with Kemp, who plays shaven-headed hard case Grant Mitchell in EastEnders.

In an amazing coincidence, his soap pal Steve McFadden, 46, who plays his brother Phil, also came off second-best in a tussle with the woman in HIS life.

He was left bruised after being smacked in the face by ex-love Angela Bostock, 29.

Police were called to Kemp and Wade's £1million home in Battersea, south-west London, after neighbours reported hearing a noisy domestic dispute.

Wade, 37 – who has run a campaign against domestic violence in her newspaper – was arrested and taken to Wandsworth police station, where she was held in custody for four hours to cool off. She was then released without charge.

Drama

Kemp, 41, currently filming a new series of his SAS drama Ultimate Force, was believed to have suffered a badly cut lip. He apparently did not want to press charges against his missus.

Sources claim Wade had previously been at a party with MP David Blunkett, 58, following his resignation as Work and Pensions Secretary. She is also a close friend of Prime Minister Tony Blair and his wife Cherie.

Earlier that evening, she and Ross had met up at a party held by PR guru Matthew Freud, 41, and his wife, Elizabeth, 36 – daughter of Wade's boss, media baron Rupert Murdoch.

Sources claim Wade and Kemp had been in good spirits at the bash. But a furious row broke out after they returned home. A neighbour heard "deafening screams" coming from their house at 4am and called the police. They arrived and Wade was nabbed.

Some reports claimed that a knife had been involved and that Ross had been cut on both lips. He is believed to have refused medical treatment.

Yesterday Kemp is said to have left their home in the morning as planned to film scenes for Ultimate Force in London. But he left work early to recover from his ordeal.

Rebekah was said to have returned to work yesterday afternoon – where boss Murdoch, 74, was waiting to have a word with her. Unluckily



BRUISED: Kemp yesterday

■ by NIGEL PAULEY

for her, he is in London for the annual meeting of his satellite TV station, BSkyB.

But a well-placed source claimed last night that Wade's job was safe – for now. Murdoch was said to have indicated to staff that he was treating the punch-up lightly.

Cheshire-born Wade, who studied at the Sorbonne in Paris, had been due to attend the Woman of the Year lunch at London's Guildhall yesterday.

During her time at the Sun, she has campaigned vigorously against domestic violence.

She was the journalist who broke the story of how soccer

ace Paul Gascoigne, 38, beat up his wife, Sheryl. They have since divorced.

Wade and Kemp first met at a golf tournament 10 years ago and married in a glitzy Las Vegas ceremony in June 2002.

The pair are both Labour supporters. They often socialise with Tony Blair, 52, and Cherie, 51, and have been guests at Chequers and Downing Street.

Rose

Wade started out as a secretary with a newspaper group, before joining News International in 1990.

She rose to become the News of the World's deputy editor in 1995 and in 1998 took up the

Blow-by-blow timetable

7pm: Sun editor Rebekah Wade meets David Blunkett at a mystery central London location to console him about losing his Cabinet job – again.

8pm: She has a "power dinner" at The Ivy in trendy Covent Garden with her boss, Rupert Murdoch.

11pm: Both head for a party at the Notting Hill home of Murdoch's daughter, Elizabeth, and her husband Matthew Freud. She is believed to be joined there by Ross Kemp, who leaves before her.

4am: The police are called by worried neighbours who are woken up by a ferocious argument at Wade and Kemp's home in Battersea. She is arrested and driven to Wandsworth police station.

6.30am: A chauffeur-driven Mercedes arrives at their home, apparently to collect one of the couple, but is turned away.

8am: Kemp, complete with cut lip, is seen returning to the house.

9.35am: Six miles away, in Haringey, north London, Angela Bostock is arrested for assaulting her ex Steve McFadden, alias EastEnders' Phil Mitchell. She is later released without charge.

Noon: Rebekah is released from custody without charge and driven to the Sun's Wapping HQ.



TROUBLESPOT: The house they share

is due back in the New Year for another four-month spell.

As well as starring in the series Ultimate Force, he has also presented a series on gangs around the world.

Earlier this year, he mocked his own tough guy image in an episode of BBC comedy Extras, starring Ricky Gervais, 44.

Strong

PR guru Max Clifford, 62, a friend of Wade, said: "They have a very good marriage and have both been very successful."

"Rebekah does have a very strong personality, but she's not volatile. She just stands up for herself. If something happened, she would have been

pushed to it." Flame-haired Wade, who regularly dines at London's posh Ivy restaurant, is known to be fiercely ambitious and driven.

But while she attends plenty of glitzy events, she rarely speaks in public. There was no comment from her or The Sun yesterday.

An EastEnders spokesman said it had no comment on the alleged incident.

But show sources said they were finding it hard coming to terms with two of telly's toughest characters being assaulted by women within hours.

One insider said: "We're in shock. You couldn't make it up."

nigel.paulley@dailystar.co.uk

EastEnders scriptwriters couldn't make up



Crusade that has backfired

■ by NADINE LINGE
REBEKAH Wade's Sun has been running a campaign against domestic violence since 2003.

The paper has called on Tony Blair, wife Cherie, former Home Secretary David Blunkett and a string of celebrities to back the cause.

The latest phase of the campaign was in September, when The Sun used the Corrie plot of Shelley Unwin's wedding to bally Charlie Stubbs to highlight the problem.

Last year the paper also claimed that a third of Britain's 440,000 victims of domestic violence were men.

It then also boasted of its "gripping" campaign's nomination for a British Press Award and set up a hotline for abused women and men.

Last year Cherie Blair, 51, wrote: "The Sun has recognised that this is a major issue over which we all have to take action. Its campaign raises awareness among millions."

What would Peggy say?

HERE'S what TV mum Peggy, played by Barbara Windsor, 68, left, might say to her EastEnders boys . . .

"Ere! Woss going on?"

"What you doing letting that pair of slappers knock you around?"

"I always said she was a wrong 'un."

"Keep it buttoned that you got thumped by girls - we'll never be able to hold our heads up in the Square."

"Why'd you get Old Bill involved? We'll sort it the Mitchell way."

"You've been made to look a right pair of mugs - you gotta teach yer women some respect."

"Don't forget the importance of faaaamily. We'll show them two who's boss."

"Let's get down the Vic and 'ave a drink while we decide what to do."

"I'll get Fat Pat to put the frighteners on 'em."

"Just remember - you're a Mitchell."

STEVE'S PHILLED IN TOO – Pages 6 & 7

TALE OF THE TAPE

ROSS KEMP, 41

BUILD: Like a boxer or brick outhouse.

HAIR: Shaven.

IMAGE: Mean and moody, but is a well-spoken luvvie at heart.

CLOTHES: East End builder made good

JOB: TV hardman, soap gangster.

BACKGROUND:

Essex lad. His father, John, is a policeman, while mum Jean is a hairdresser. Went to local comprehensive, then drama college. Good athlete.

EARLY DAYS:

As a struggling actor, he lived in a squallid south London flat. Had bit parts in Emmerdale and London's Burning.

BIG BREAK:

Landing the role of Grant Mitchell in EastEnders in 1989.

CAREER: Won a string of awards during his 10 years in soap, switched to ITV in a golden handcuffs

deal which saw him dubbed "TV's £1,000-a-minute man" and played an SAS hero in Ultimate Force. Tempted back to Albert Square last month and has boosted the Beeb's soap's ratings.

HOW DOES HE SHAPE UP? Looks every inch the TV tough guy.

WHO'S IN HIS CORNER? Labour luvvies, on-screen brother Phil Mitchell (Steve McFadden, 46) and mum Peggy (Babs Windsor, 68).

HOME: Battersea. **FRIENDS SAY:** He's just a big softie in real life.

HE SAYS: "I'm a real actor, not just a tough guy."

SENSE OF HUMOUR:

Sent up his hardman image up in Extras.

Hobbies: Rugby, motorbikes and politics. Has even been tipped to become a Labour MP.

REBEKAH WADE, 37

BUILD: Willowy.

HAIR: Red and curly.

IMAGE: Professional and in control, but has an air of controlled rage.

CLOTHES: Stylish designer labels.

JOB: Newspaper editor.

BACKGROUND:

Middle-class family from Cheshire, grammar school, Sorbonne in Paris.

EARLY DAYS:

Worked for French mag and as secretary for a newspaper group before joining News International.

BIG BREAK:

Became editor of the News of the World in 2000, switching to the Sun in January 2003.

CAREER:

Famed for campaigning

against paedophiles and domestic violence.

HOW DOES SHE SHAPE UP? Punches above her weight.

WHO'S IN HER CORNER? Tony Blair, 52, and his wife Cherie, 51. David Blunkett, 58, Labour luvvies, media movers and shakers.

HOME: Battersea.

FRIENDS SAY: She's talented, ambitious and loyal.

SHE SAYS: Nothing.

SENSE OF HUMOUR: Not noted for having one.

Hobbies: Dining at the swanky Ivy restaurant, networking and schmoozing with showbiz pals and Labour luvvies.

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Amazing real life bust-ups that even the

TALE OF THE TAPE

STEVE MCFADDEN, 46

BUILD: Stocky.
HAIR: Shaven.
IMAGE: Tough guy and oat. Describes himself as a "tearaway" in his early days.

JOB: Actor and father. He has a son, Matthew, 19, with childhood sweetheart Sue Marshall and two more with Angela.

BACKGROUND: Born in Maida Vale. His mum, Barbara, was a telephonist and his dad, John, a market trader.

EARLY DAYS: He used to flog jewellery and perfume from a suitcase on Oxford Street.

BIG BREAK: Joined EastEnders in 1990.

CAREER: Got a grant to study at RADA. Has had meaty storylines in EastEnders.

HOW DOES HE SHAPE UP? Seemingly not a man to mess with.

WHO'S IN HIS CORNER? Babs Windsor, 68, and Ross Kemp, 41.

HOME: Highgate in north London, plus a holiday cottage in Cornwall.

FRIENDS SAY: "Everyone likes him. He's a joy to work with." (Babs)

HE SAYS: "It's not easy to play Phil. I'm not bitter and frustrated like he is."

SENSE OF HUMOUR? Loves pranks on set.

Hobbies: Has a huge collection of cars and bikes.

ANGELA BOSTOCK, 29

BUILD: Slim.
HAIR: Blonde.
IMAGE: Bitter and fiery former lover of a famous soap actor.

JOB: Mother of Steve's two children.

BACKGROUND: She met Steve in 1995 at a nightclub in Salisbury, Wiltshire, but they managed to keep their romance secret from the Press for a year – until they were spotted out shopping together.

EARLY DAYS: Their relationship was always stormy. She left him while pregnant with their first child, but got back together. He dumped her in 1999 and started dating EastEnders co-star Lucy Benjamin, 35. But when they went through a bad patch, he rekindled his romance with Angela and got her pregnant again.

BIG BREAK: Meeting Steve – and making the papers.

CAREER: Has been selling seedy stories about Steve, claiming he used to enjoy "dogging" with strangers. Last year, she was accused of having a secret lesbian fling with the wife of a gangster.

HOW DOES SHE SHAPE UP? Not a woman to cross.

WHO'S IN HER CORNER? At the moment it's looking pretty empty.

HOME: Lives a few doors away from Steve's house in Highgate, north London.

FRIENDS SAY: Very little about her.

HE SAYS: "I don't think Steve ever loved me. For him, it was just about the sex."

SENSE OF HUMOUR? Not that you'd notice.

Hobbies: Kissing and telling.

PUNCHED IN BY HIS EX



PUNCH-UP: Steve's former lover Angela Bostock

EASTENDERS hardman Steve McFadden got a wallop in the face from his ex-lover yesterday.

Blonde Angela Bostock punched the telly tough guy in full view of three police officers.

McFadden, 46 – who plays Phil Mitchell in the TV soap – had taken the officers and a locksmith to the home in north London he formerly shared with the 29-year-old blonde. Friends claim police had advised him to change the locks on a garage where he stored some of his goods after allegedly catching Bostock breaking in on Tuesday.

A close friend said: "Steve went along and was confronted by Angela outside her home.

Bruised

"She angrily thrust their 18-month-old daughter Mollie into his arms and then just launched herself at him striking him hard in the face.

"Angela hit him with such force that he was sent reeling backwards and suffered a bruised face. Thankfully Mollie was unharmed."

Police arrested Bostock, mother of the star's two children, on suspicion of assault following the incident at 9.35am and took her to a nearby police station.

She was later released after being cautioned for assault, Scotland Yard confirmed last night.

Last night Bostock, casually dressed in jeans and a vest top, answered the door at her smart terraced home on a private gated

EXCLUSIVE

■ by NIGEL PAULEY

estate in East Finchley. She said: "I'm Angela Bostock – what did you expect, some kind of muscly beast?"

Asked about the flare-up, she said: "I don't want to talk about it."

Later she hurried from the house, evading questions, dashed to a red Renault car and drove off alone.

Steve's spokesman said: "Steve was involved in an incident with the police. He was not arrested and is not commenting."

A close friend of the star said: "Steve's the innocent victim in all this – it's incredible that this should take place in full view of three police officers."

Pals claim McFadden has had a string of problems with Bostock since he signed over his former home to her and moved just 150 yards away.

"Basically, she lives in the house but Steve keeps a lot of his possessions in the lock-up garage," said the friend.

"He caught Angela breaking into the garage on Tuesday and contacted the police. They advised him to change the locks and agreed to accompany him to the address.

"However, when they arrived along with the locksmith they were confronted by Angela who just absolutely lost it."

"Steve didn't want to press charges but such was the ferocity of the attack that the police officers – who witnessed the whole thing – had no option but to arrest her."

"There has been bad blood between the couple since Bostock sold a story to a newspaper earlier this year alleging that the TV star enjoyed "dogging" and watching her sex with strangers.

The couple's stormy relationship began when they first met in 1995 at a nightclub in Salisbury.

They managed to keep their romance under wraps for a year before being spotted out shopping in London. But things soon went wrong.

In June 1997 Bostock, then pregnant with their daughter Teona, who is now seven, moved out of the couple's £1million home after a row.

They were reunited two months later when McFadden's dad Mackie suffered a heart attack and Angela went to visit.

The stress of it all



LOVERS: Steve and Lucy in EastEnders

brought on her labour and she gave birth in a neighbouring ward.

Steve then announced he intended to stay with Angela for ever and she moved back into his London home with the tot.

But two years later they split again after Steve revealed his affair with EastEnders co-star Lucy Benjamin, 35, who played Lisa Fowler in the TV soap.

Steve and Lucy then had a stormy three-year relationship that saw them move from the brink of marriage to taking separate holidays.

When they broke up the Walford hardman ran back into the arms of Bostock, who lived a few hundred yards from the home he shared with Lucy.

Test

She soon became pregnant again but their reconciliation was short-lived as Steve refused to believe he was the father.

He was only forced to accept baby Mollie after a DNA test proved positive.

Steve then revealed that he had been seeing Bostock for three years behind the back of Lucy.

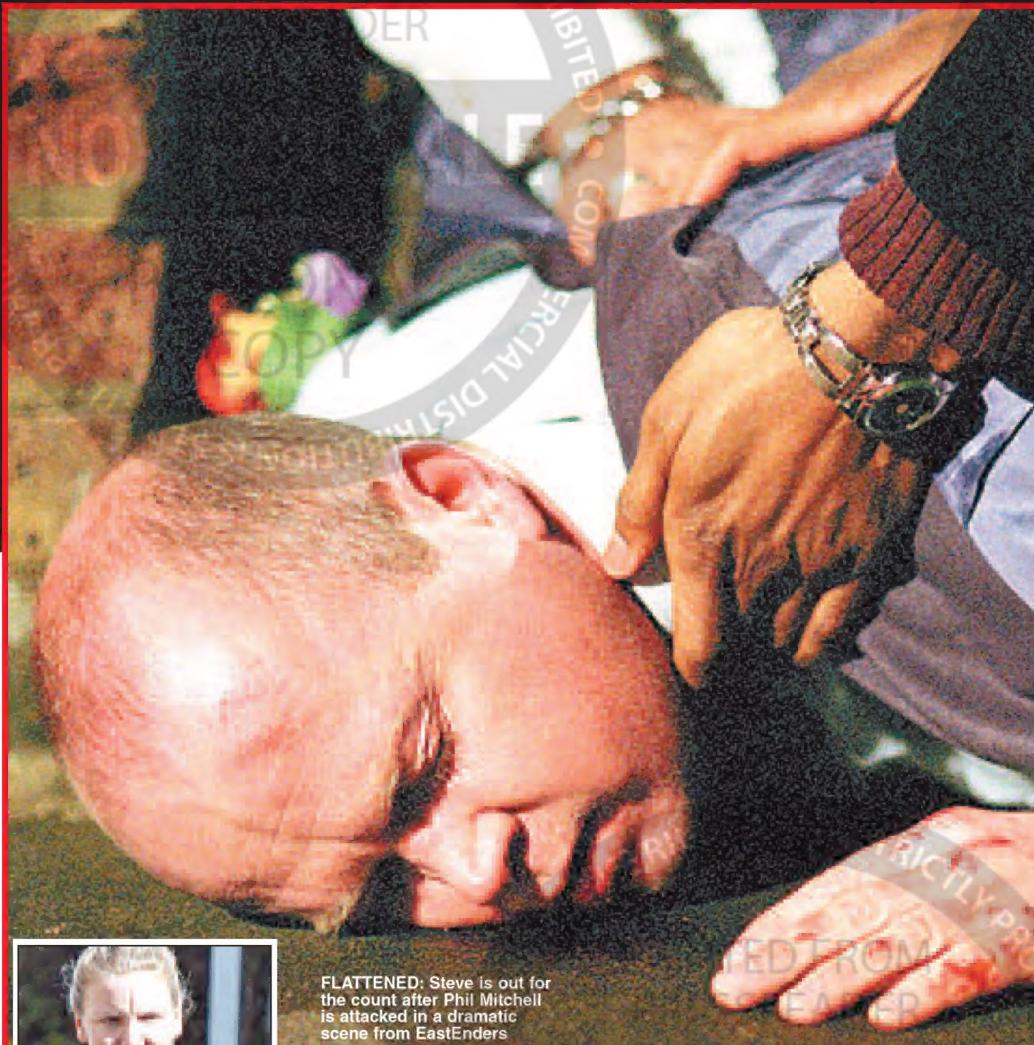
In August Bostock was arrested for allegedly breaking into his home and stealing a video.

It's alleged she and a friend left the house in Highgate, north London, with a video cassette and other property.

nigel.pauley@dailystar.co.uk



EastEnders scriptwriters couldn't make up



'VAN MAN WHO LIKED RUFF SEX'

■ by LAURA NEIL

IN JULY Angela accused Steve of leaving her holding the baby, while he sailed off on a sun-kissed break with Alex Best, 33. The couple have also had to live with Steve's association with the filthy hobby of "dogging", which Angela claims he practised from the inside of his 18-year-old VW campervan - sometimes even wearing a pantomime wig and dark glasses to avoid being recognised.

Pervert

Angela explained: "Steve loved watching dirty old men have sex. The father of my children is a pervert - he's addicted to dogging."

She added: "I was trying to deal with it. I was trying to be the cheap slut that Steve wanted. The men would come out of the bushes - sometimes with dogs or torches - and leer through the glass. It was frightening."

She also claimed that Steve once paid a French cross-dresser in fishnets and a blonde wig £15 to have sex with her in the van while he watched.



Telly reign of crime and pain

■ by NADINE LINGE
ACTORS Ross Kemp and Steve McFadden have had their share of scrapes in their roles as EastEnders' Mitchell brothers.

Grant and Phil arrived in Walford in 1990 as owners of the Archers garage and immediately started causing havoc.

Never mind their dodgy scams, dog racing and boxing - it was their chaotic love lives that had Albert Square buzzing.

Grant tied the knot with sexy Sharon Watts on Boxing Day in 1991 and they ran the Vic together until she slept with Phil while Grant was in prison for GBH.

All was revealed in the tense Sharongate storyline, when Grant played a tape of his wife admitting she had slept with Phil.

Grant then married barmaid Tiffany Raymond, who was pregnant with his baby Courtney, but slept with her mum Louise.

Tiffany attempted to leave Grant and take Courtney with her, but it ended in her being killed by Frank Butcher, who knocked her down with his car just outside the Vic.

Dangerous

Grant later took his revenge on Phil by romping with his brother's wife Kathy.

In October 1999, Grant was in debt to dangerous moneylenders and staged a disastrous heist to pay off his loan.

Pursued by police, he drove into the River Thames, only to resurface later, bound for Rio with daughter Courtney and bags of cash.

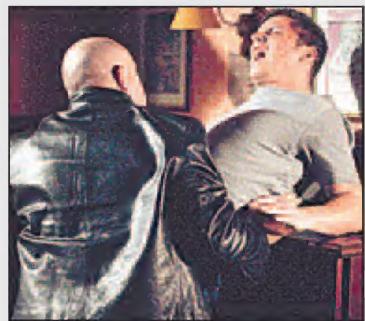
After Grant split with Sharon, Phil rekindled their romance, only to discover she couldn't have kids. He then married Kathy, but she fled to South Africa with their son Ben after Phil became an alcoholic.

Phil then hooked up with besotted Lisa Shaw, but things soon turned sour and he slept with her best mate Melanie Healy. After they broke up Lisa shot Phil, but he survived.

His fling with Mel resulted in a feud with her fiance Steve Owen, which ended with the pair involved in a car crash that killed Steve.

Phil then married ex-cop Kate Tyler, who was originally drafted in as a honeypot to trap him. He promised to change for her, but took part in an armed robbery which went wrong, thanks to scheming Dirty Den.

He was put on trial for the crime, but luckily for him the trial collapsed.



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**DAILY
STAR
FORUM**

Letters,
texts &
jokes

Page 43

BRAVE ABIGAIL GOES HOME TO HAVE BABY

STAB victim Abigail Witchalls was back home last night - and can't wait to give birth.

The pregnant mum, 26, who amazed doctors by surviving a brutal knife attack six months ago, has been released from hospital.

And now she and her husband Ben, 26, are looking forward to the birth of their second baby later this month. A statement

■ by IAIN BURCHELL

from the Royal Orthopaedic Hospital in north London where she has been treated said yesterday: "Abigail is now able to breathe and speak."

Therapy

"She has some movement in her right arm so that she is beginning to feed herself."

"She has tetraplegia which means she is severely disabled

and will continue to need ongoing therapy and nursing care. It is expected that her initial stay at home will be temporary as she will soon need to be admitted to a maternity hospital."

Abigail will give birth by Caesarean section.

She was left paralysed by the attack in her home village of Little Bookham, Surrey, on April 20. She was just a few weeks pregnant and was pushing her two-year-old son Joseph

in his buggy along a lane when the knifeman pounced, stabbing her in the neck.

Doctors did not expect her to survive more than 48 hours and a priest gave her the last rites.

Blinking

But she fought back, communicating with medics and her family by blinking before she recovered her speech.

Her home has now been specially adapted and the NHS will

provide full care. The hospital said: "Abigail is delighted to be returning home after so long."

Devout Catholic Abigail has told medical staff: "Your expertise and competence have encouraged me and given me the confidence to continue to expect improvements."

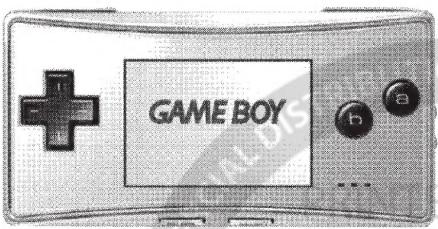
The prime suspect for the attack was Richard Cazaly, 23, who killed himself days later. He lived nearby.

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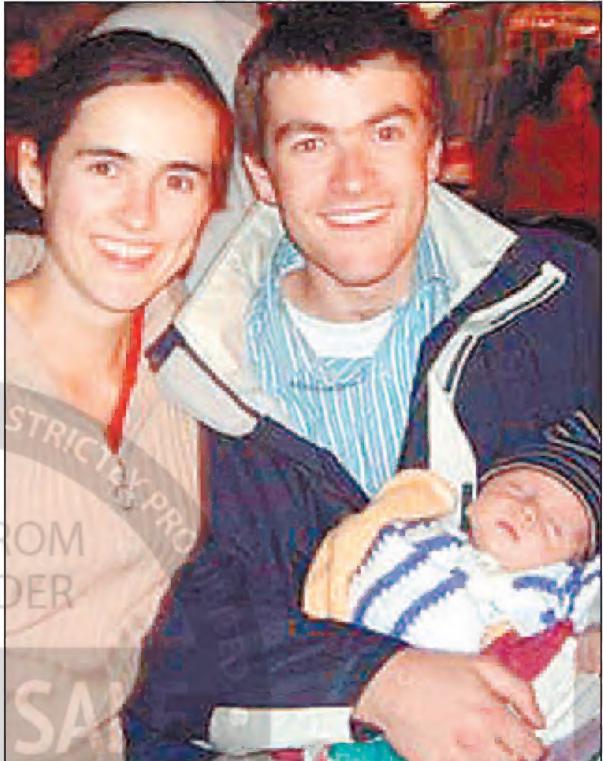
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HOME AGAIN: Abigail with Ben and little Joseph before the attack

Oz 'killer' left DNA at scene

■ by FRANK THORNE in Darwin

THE drifter accused of the outback murder of British backpacker Peter Falconio left DNA at the death scene, a court heard.

British expert Jonathan Whitaker told the jury here in Darwin, north Australia, that Bradley John Murdoch's DNA was found inside Mr Falconio's camper van.

He said Murdoch's DNA was discovered on homemade handcuffs used to restrain Mr Falconio's girlfriend Joanne Lees, 32.

Murdoch, 47, from Broome, in Western Australia, denies murdering Mr Falconio, 28, of Huddersfield, West Yorks.

Dr Whitaker said he found a "substantial" DNA profile on the restraints.

He added: "That profile matched Mr Murdoch's." The trial continues.



CUFFED: Joanne Lees

GROWING numbers of Brits are shopping online after one drink too many.

And it is giving rise to a new syndrome - dubbed BLOTO by researchers.

BLOTO - Buying Loads of Tat Online - happens when we log on to shop after a boozing session.

According to research from customer experience firm Conchango, 7% of Brits know someone who has shopped online while under the influence.

Paul Dawson, head of customer experience at Conchango, said: "It would appear that all caution is going out of the window following a drunken session."

The study also revealed that 6% of us know someone who has shopped online undressed.



RAPE CLAIM: Ronaldo

Ronaldo cousin is freed

■ by STEPHEN RIGLEY
FOOTBALL star Cristiano Ronaldo's cousin has been arrested and bailed over claims he held down a woman on a bed while the Manchester United winger allegedly raped her.

Nuno Aveiro attended the same police station where 20-year-old Ronaldo spent seven hours in custody two weeks ago.

It is understood that Aveiro, in his twenties, kept an appointment at the London police station on Tuesday.

He was arrested on suspicion of rape and later released on bail pending further inquiries.

Attack

Two French women initially made allegations of rape but one has withdrawn her claim after leaving the country.

Ronaldo was questioned last month over the alleged attack at the capital's Sanderson Hotel on October 2.

Ronaldo and his cousin deny rape, saying they are the victims of a "stitch-up".

The investigation is being carried out by the Metropolitan Police's Operation Sapphire sex crimes unit.

Officers are discussing with the Crown Prosecution Service whether charges will be brought.

STAR

BURST
BRITS will shell out £1.7 billion on cards, decorations and wrapping paper this Christmas, according to bank Morgan Stanley.

8 yrs for lawyer

LAWYER Michael Fielding whose firm advised the Princess Diana Memorial Fund, was jailed for eight years yesterday for defrauding £6.5million from his clients.

Fielding, 59, funded a millionaire lifestyle with the proceeds including a £2.5m flat in London's Regent's Park and an apartment in Miami.

London's Southwark Crown Court was told that the partner at top London firm Lawrence Graham confessed when a victim caught on.

He left work, promising to return, but fled to the US with his wife and spent his ill-gotten gains.

Police finally tracked him down in June.

RAPPING KEV'S A LAUGHING STOCK

Britney raps his bid for stardom



OUT OF TUNE: Brit isn't impressed with husband Kev's partying – or his musical talents

Y'ALL AIN'T READY

Back then they called me K-Fed
But you can call me Daddy instead.
Go ahead and say whatcha wanna/
I'm gonna sell about 2 mil, oh, then I'm a goner.
I know you all wish you was in my position
Cause I keep gettin' in situations that you wish you
was in, cousin.
Steppin' in this game and y'all ain't got a clue.
Getting anxious? Go take a peep
I'm starrin' in your magazines now every day and
week. But maybe baby you can wait and see
Until then all these Pavarottis followin' me.

LOVE-SPLIT

Britney Spears sparked an amazing bust-up with husband Kevin Federline by laughing at his attempts to become a rapper.

The pop princess, 23, agreed to pay for all Kevin's recording sessions.

But she was far from impressed with the results.

In the lyrics to one track called Y'All Ain't Ready, cocky former dancer Kevin, 27, boasts he will sell two million albums.

But he was left fuming when Brit told him he would be lucky to sell 100.

And music fans seem to agree with her verdict. They slated

■ by IAIN BURCHELL

Y'All Ain't Ready after the rap was leaked on the internet.

US sources say Britney's stinging criticism led to another of the stormy bust-ups that have left their marriage on the rocks after just over a year.

Hurt

A pal revealed: "She said his debut CD might sell 'a hundred, maybe a thousand' copies if he was lucky."

"Kevin looked really hurt by her remarks."

On Y'All Ain't Ready, Kevin – expected to release his album under the name K-Fed – raps: "Go ahead and say whatcha wanna/I'm gonna sell about

two mil, oh, then I'm a goner." In another line he goes on: "I know you all wish you was in my position/Cause I keep gettin' in situations that you wish you was in, cousin."

But the track has been ridiculed by music fans on internet message boards.

One critic wrote: "That's not hot."

And another moaned: "My ears are bleeding!"

Britney's spokeswoman Lesley Sloan has insisted that the couple's relationship is "fine".

But friends say the Toxic singer is fed-up of Kevin partying while she looks after their six-week-old baby son Sean Preston.

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ABOUT TELLY



ABOUT TELLY

Jill's sick of celeb dancing

FORMER Strictly Come Dancing winner Jill Halfpenny claims the new series makes her sick.

Last year's winner Jill, 30, says just hearing the theme music to the BBC show turns her stomach.

That's because it brings back bad memories of the stress and physical hard work rehearsing tough dance routines.

Soap babe Jill said: "I think it's a great show but I feel physically sick when it comes on. I couldn't do it again."

She also tips telly star Zoe Ball, 34, or athlete Colin Jackson, 38, to win this year's event hosted by Bruce Forsyth, 77, and Tess Daly, 34.

But she thinks there will be dark horses.

"It's about how people loosen up a little and get into it – it's quite intimidating.

"It can take you a few weeks just to loosen yourself up a bit."

Jill also says that although she hasn't kept up with her dance lessons since she won, she has tried teaching boyfriend Craig Conway, 29, some steps.

She admitted: "He keeps saying I'm stepping on his feet and we end up having a row."

Drug woe for Jamie's joint

TRAINEE cooks are smoking joints to help cope with the stress of working for celebrity chef Jamie Oliver.

North London restaurant Fifteen was set up by Oliver, 30, to teach disadvantaged youngsters to cook.

Now it is planning to start a treatment centre after some of the trainees turned to the drug to deal with the pressure.

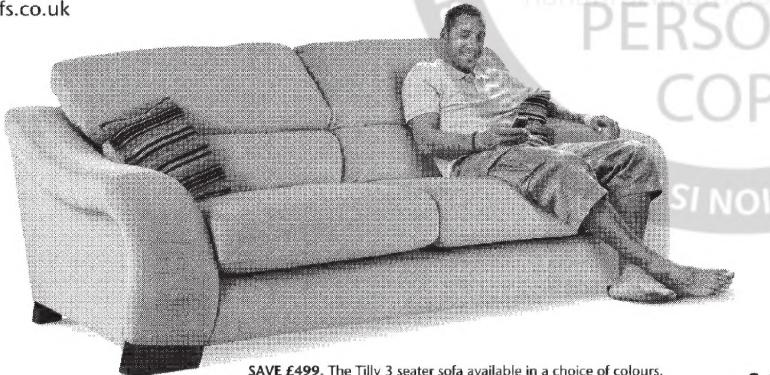
Training boss Tony Elvin said:

"Cannabis has caused poor attendance,

lateness, lack of motivation, difficulty in retaining information and insecurity.

"We are helping trainees to allow them to stay on and fulfil their potential."

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CHEN-UINE ARTICLE:
Hollyoaks' Chris says his friend could go right to the top



TURNED OFF: Jill



Pal Chenai's X-tra special

HOLLYOAKS hunk Chris Fountain is hoping X Factor babe Chenai Zhyuku goes all the way.

Chris, 18, who plays troubled teen Justin Burton in the Channel 4 soap, believes she could become a major star.

And he's so hooked on watching her perform he gets his mum to tape it so he doesn't miss a note.

The pair both grew up in the same area of Bradford, West Yorks, and studied performing arts at Intake High in Leeds.

While pupils at the school – famous for producing Spice Girl Mel B and actress Angela Griffin – Chenai, 19, took "shy" Chris under her wing.

Their friendship blossomed until she left to go to college and Chris got his big break on Hollyoaks.

Chris, who was in the year

below her, said his pal was a hit with the boys. He

■ by JAMES INGHAM

said: "Chenai's always been a bit of a looker.

"She was certainly very popular with all the guys and definitely one of the girls the lads fancied. "She's got even better since leaving school. She looked amazing on last week's show and certainly has the looks and talent to go all the way."

Chris revealed how the sexy singer looked after him when he first enrolled.

Joking

The hip-hop fan, said: "I was a bit shy when I first started school but after a while we got chatting and used to sit together.

"We used to have a right laugh messing around and joking."

The Hollyoaks favourite is involved in a gripping storyline where his character has been jailed for killing evil Macki.

But despite being busy with filming Chris is making sure he doesn't miss his pal. He added: "She hasn't shown the public what she is capable of yet."

Text fiends love Chico

■ by MARK JEFFERIES

HUNKY X Factor stripper Chico Simani is getting scores of sexy texts from mystery women.

But the 34-year-old has no idea how they got his number.

He's not complaining though – the saucy signals have given him a boost after being in the bottom two on Saturday's show.

A show source said: "Some of the texts are very suggestive. But they've put a grin back on his face."

Chico told the other contestants: "This is wicked. I know these girls are the same people who are voting for me and it's thanks to them I am still in the contest."



BLOCKBUSTER:
A spectacular scene from the first episode of the £70m epic Rome on BBC2 on Wednesday



THAT'S EPIC!

Sex 'n' sandals saga Rome is massive hit

SIZZLING sex scenes and graphic violence have sent Rome rocketing to the top of the TV ratings.

Nearly seven million viewers watched the first episode on BBC2 – the channel's highest audience for four years.

And the £70million epic easily hammered ITV1's premiere of Star War II: Attack of the Clones, watched by only 3.5m viewers.

A BBC2 spokeswoman said: "We are very pleased the audience enjoyed Rome. We're delighted with the viewing figures."

The channel's previous highest rating was in October 2001, when war drama Band Of Brothers was seen by 5.2m viewers.

Action-packed Rome tells the story of the power struggle between

■ by NIGEL PAULEY

Caesar (Ciaran Hinds, 52) and Pompey Magnus (Kenneth Cranham, 60), former friends, now bitterly opposed.

Actress Polly Walker appeared in several steamy sex scenes and was shown fully-nude front-on during the opening episode on Wednesday night.

And she revealed that she banned her children Giorgio, 11, and Delilah, five, from watching.

Blood

Polly, 39, who was also seen showered in the blood of a freshly-sacrificed bull, plays power-mad noblewoman Atia, whose character uses sex to achieve her ends.

She said: "I'm not naturally exhibitionistic at all. It wasn't easy and is not something my children will be watching.

"And I certainly won't be encouraging my family

to watch it – but I'm sure they will!" However, she thanked co-stars James Purefoy, 41, (Mark Antony) and Lee Boardman, 33, (Timon) for being so gentlemanly during their intimate scenes together.

Polly added: "The sex scenes were difficult. Fortunately, both James and Lee were such lovely guys they made it easy for me.

"But you still have to get your kit off and I was a bit nervous about baring all. I um-ed and ah-ed but I didn't feel that they were titillating scenes; that I was having to play a sex kitten.

"It was pretty shocking, but the scenes were always for a reason. Atia was always trying to achieve something by doing it.

"So I had to go with it because it's about the character and I had to accept all aspects of that. I had to do it."

Polly, from Warrington, Cheshire, also revealed she shaped up in the gym for her nude scenes.

But she said she was pleased with the results.

The actress, who previously starred in the BBC series State Of Play, said: "I was relieved that I didn't look as monstrous as I thought I would."

nigel.pauley@dailystar.co.uk



STARS: Polly (Atia) and Ciaran (Caesar), left

Paul a dog's best friend

CHAT-SHOW host Paul O'Grady is top dog after winning an award for being the biggest pooch-friendly celebrity in the UK.

The comedian dotes on his pet Buster who he adopted after the hound was found abandoned by the roadside when a puppy.

Big-hearted O'Grady, 50, takes the nine-year-old shih tzu and bichon frise cross with



DELIGHT: O'Grady

him everywhere. And after being named The Most Dog-friendly Celebrity in the 2005 Winatot Approved Dog-Friendly Awards, he last night said: "I'm absolutely delighted."

"I want to thank all those people who voted for me and Buster."

The ITV tea-time presenter beat off competition from Geri Halliwell, 33, Sharon Osbourne, 53, and Julian Clary, 46.

Game on for Beeb

THE Beeb and ITV are in a race to launch quiz show based on fiendish Japanese puzzle game Sudoku.

The numbers craze has taken Britain by storm.

BBC bosses look like winning the race to get a show on air first.

Weekday daily lunchtime show Sudoo-Q, hosted by Eamonn Holmes, 45, is set to start next month.

ITV is said to be planning something "along similar lines" called So Sudoku.

But it is still in the development stages, said trade journal Broadcast.

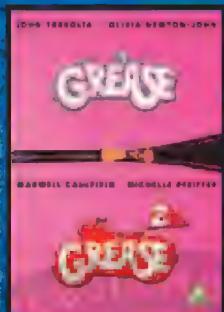
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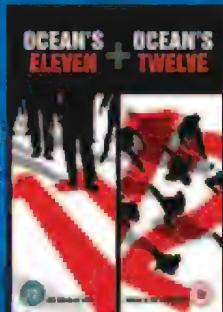
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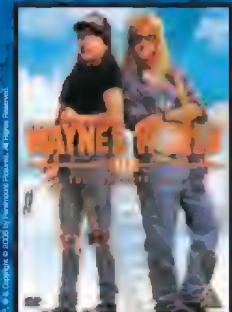
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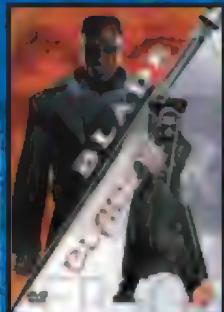
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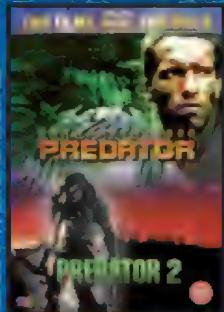
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MUM'S HELL: Angie worries over her son

I fear Calum will end up a stinking drunk like Bestie



PLAYBOY: Calum Best shares his dad's taste in clubbing and gorgeous girls



PINT PERIL: Another drink for George

HIGH-LIVING hunk Calum Best could end up a "stinking drunk" like dad George, says his anxious mother.

"I worry he might turn out like George," said Angie Best, 53, who flew from her US home to see ex George as he lay close to death in a London hospital.

"I fear that he may have inherited some kind of alcoholic gene – but he says he is simply doing what every 24-year-old does."

Playboy Calum is a regular on the London party scene, enjoying late nights, trendy clubs and scores of gorgeous women.

The star of Celebrity Love Island was even caught on CCTV romping

■ by NADINE LINGE

with Rolling Stone daughter Lizzie Jagger, 21, at a nightspot.

"If he is still living this life a few years down the line I will want to do something about it," said former model Angie.

"All I can hope is that his upbringing will protect him from any negative influences."

Idol

Angie revealed that American-born Calum is applying for British citizenship to be closer to his dad.

She admits she still loves the fallen idol as the father of her son and hopes they can all be friends again.

"You are talking about a father that spent virtually all of his son's

life stinking drunk," she said. "Calum loves his father more than George truly deserves."

She spoke of her shock at 59-year-old George's frail appearance during her heart-rending bedside visit – the first time she's seen him for 10 years.

Glamorous Angie said: "George looked 110 years old – he was like a frail little bird, so emaciated he was virtually a skeleton."

Angie, a fitness expert who used to work as Cher's personal trainer, is convinced George will battle his way through the illness.

The couple married in 1978 when George was playing for Los Angeles Aztecs.

But they split eight years later when Angie got fed up with the

soccer legend's boozing and womanising – something she says makes telly's saucy Footballers' Wives show look "tame".

She claimed that George's second wife Alex, 33, shut her out of his life after they tied the knot in 1995. "She was very territorial and even seemed jealous of Calum competing for his attention," she added.

Battle

George's agent Phil Hughes said yesterday that the former star was facing his "toughest battle yet".

He is hooked up to a dialysis machine to help his ailing kidneys and is fed through a nasal tube – though Phil managed to sneak in an ice lolly as a treat.

nadine.linge@dailystar.co.uk

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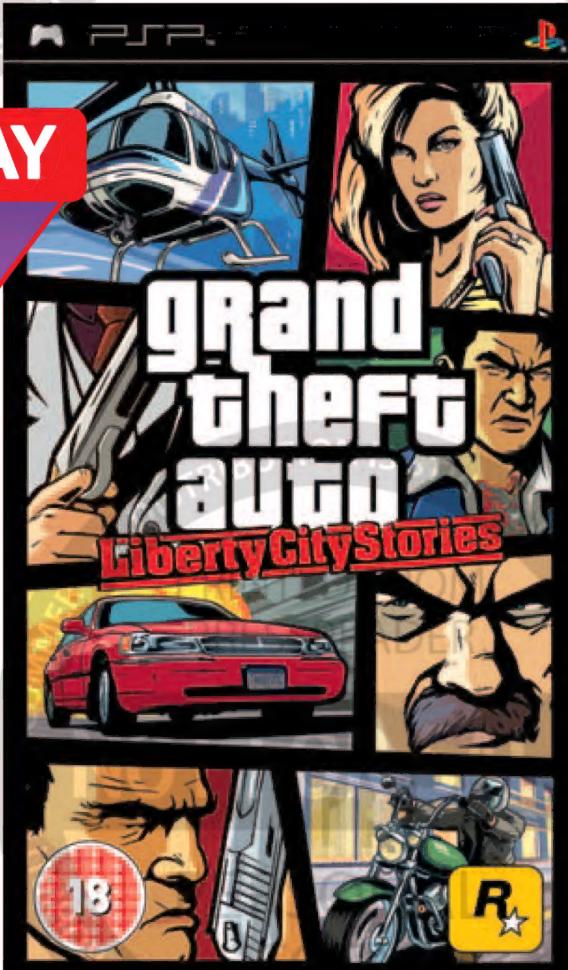
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7 BRIT SQUADDIES CLEAR AFTER £10M COURT SHAMBLES

Iraq 'murder' witnesses lied for blood money

SEVEN British soldiers were dramatically cleared of murdering an Iraq civilian yesterday when their £10million trial sensationally collapsed.

The judge ruled the Army investigation had been a shambles and Iraqi witnesses had lied and exaggerated.

Some witnesses admitted they were after "blood money" following the death of an 18-year-old during a stop check.

Judge Advocate General Jeff Blackett's decision at a court martial in Colchester brought delighted beams from the seven - Corporal Scott Evans, 32, and privates David Harding, 25, Billy Nerney, 24, Samuel May, 25, Scott Jackson, 26, Morne Vosloo, 26, and Robert di Gregorio, 24.

Cricket

Afterwards, Rex Tred QC who represented Corporal Evans said: "These are very courageous men doing a very difficult job in difficult circumstances."

"To have a charge as grave as this hanging over a man's head when he is a serving soldier is very difficult indeed."

Christopher Hill, solicitor for Private Vosloo, revealed his South Africa-born client used to play cricket with England hero Kevin Pietersen.

"It's ironic that while Kevin Pietersen was winning the Ashes, my client had a murder charge hanging over him," he said.

The soldiers from the 3rd Battalion Parachute Regiment went on trial in September after being accused of beating Nadeem Abdulla to death when they cornered a car three weeks after hostilities officially ended.

They were alleged to have used

■ by STEPHEN RIGLEY

rifle butts, helmets and fists in an "unprovoked" assault.

But Judge Blackett told the court that prosecutors had failed to even prove that Jackson was anywhere near the scene.

One witness, Samira Rishek, a Marsh Arab who claimed she was brutally beaten by the soldiers while she was pregnant, admitted it was a "wicked lie".

The court heard that Mrs Rishek, along with other witnesses, was paid £55 a day to give evidence. She only agreed to do so after being told she would be paid.

"These Iraqis saw an opportunity to seek financial advantage from the British Army - they frequently spoke of fasol or blood money and compensation in relation to what were patently exaggerated claims," said Judge Blackett.

He added: "There is no doubt that the investigation has been inadequate."

"It is difficult to conduct the sort of investigation expected of the civilian police in this country because of the general dangers in Iraq and I do not underestimate those difficulties."

"Nevertheless the investigators made serious omissions in not searching for records of hospital admissions or treatment."

He said the gathering of DNA evidence had not been carried out adequately and it took six months to interview defendants under caution.

The judge added: "After discarding the evidence which is too weak or vague, the prosecution evidence is such that a reasonable jury or court martial board could never reach the high standard of proof required to be sure of the guilt of any defendant."

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RELIEF: Samuel May strides from court yesterday after being cleared along with his fellow squaddies - clockwise from above, Scott Evans, Robert di Gregorio, Scott Jackson, Billy Nerney and Morne Vosloo



FREE: Private Daniel Harding yesterday after the verdict

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Blunder girl Char too Blunt

CHARLOTTE Church was mortified when she was forced to sit beside **James Blunt** at the Q Awards, because she has brutally attacked him in the papers.

The 19-year-old said: "I had to meet James Blunt because we were sitting at the same table, which was awkward."

"I've recently said some pretty uncompromising things about him in the press.

"But I'm sorry, his voice is so whiny."

Good to hear you've learned your lesson Char...

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With CHARLI MORGAN, LEIGH PURVES and AMY WATTS

KATE'S AFTER A SIGN

KATIE Holmes has refused to wed **Tom Cruise** unless he signs a pre-nuptial agreement that guarantees her millions if they divorce within five years.

The 36-year-old beauty, right, who's expecting the couple's first child, has asked lawyer dad Marti to

draw up the agreement. Cruise has been married twice before to actresses **Mimi Rogers**, 49, and **Nicole Kidman**, 38.

Smart

But the air-punching star, 43, has agreed to sign anything that makes his

future bride happy. Our Stateside spy said: "Katie's not as easily led as people think.

"She's a smart and sassy girl who knows her worth."

We might find out her "worth" in five years' time...



SPOTTED

IN London: Michelle Heaton and Andy Scott Lee dirty dancing at Tantra; Roger Daltrey at Toni & Guy, Regent Street; Jack Dee getting a suit at Buckleight of London, Westminster; Katie Melua buying the Goldfrapp album at Oxford Street's HMV; Nancy Dell'Olio flirting with a waiter at the Cipriani; Craig David chomping on a burger in Leicester Square.



Picture: WIREIMAGE

Joss wins by a nose

DAZZLING Devon-born diva Joss Stone added a dash of glamour to Sir Elton John's latest charity extravaganza.

Rocking in a regal purple frock, the 18-year-old showed off a brand new nose-ring for the New York bash.

And Elt, 58, wore a snazzy purple-tinged get up, just to make

sure that he was colour-coordinated.

The third annual Enduring Vision dinner and auction was held at the ever-so-exclusive Cipriani's restaurant.

The do netted an impressive £800,000 for gentleman John's celebrated Aids Foundation.

What a philanthropic fella he is.

HEATH PLAYS CUPID

He sets up Jude and Sienna peace deal



Picture: XPOSURE

OLD PALS
ACT: Heath and Sienna met in Venice last year, left, and early yesterday Jude looked delighted to be back with his girl

EXCLUSIVE

26, was heart-broken when he heard Jude, 32, and Sienna, 23, split after claims Jude had a fling with his kids' nanny.

Our mole added: "He was speaking to Sienna throughout that time and was there to support her."

"Even when Heath heard Jude had left Sienna after that so-called fling with Daniel Craig, he convinced her some things are worth fighting for."

"So she called Jude to arrange a

meeting at a London restaurant and Heath then convinced him to accept her offer and compromise.

"They are back together but are taking things very, very slowly."

Happy

On Wednesday night Sienna and her mum Jo met Jude at London eaterie Raoul's where they put the world to rights.

The three of them then carried on partying into the small hours.

They went on to meet up with family friends at the trendy Groucho Club where onlookers say

the couple looked happier than ever.

One spy told us: "Jude and Sienna certainly seemed very excited to be back together and they were all smiles."

"It was a lovely sight after so many months of heartbreak for them both."

"But they seemed tense when they left - as though they didn't want to be photographed."

"Well, things finally seem to be looking up for the lovebirds. Let's just hope it lasts this time..."

HAVE YOU GOT SOME JUICY GOSSIP FOR US?